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K Coxe (W.) Add. Mss

BRITISH MUSEUM

MR. COXE ſubmits to his friends a plan of the HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL STATE of EUROPE, a work in which he is now engaged; and ſolicits any information which may render it more acceptable to the Public.

In this work the author purpoſes to give a ſeparate account of the principal kingdoms and ſtates of Europe. The account of each country will be divided into two principal heads. The firſt will give a ſketch of the hiſtory, from the period in which it began to be conſidered in modern Europe, to as near the preſent time, as he can procure authentic information and documents. The ſecond will contain its preſent political ſtate; namely, Geographical Tables of the European and foreign poſſeſſions; an account of the population, government, revenue, military and naval eſtabliſhments; cauſes of its riſe or decline; political and commercial intereſts. The hiſtory of the hereditary ſovereignties will be accompanied with Genealogical Tables, and the whole will be illuſtrated with maps.

This work will conſiſt of four parts, each of which will be complete in itſelf.

The firſt part will contain Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland.

The ſecond will comprehend the Houſe of Auſtria, Germany, Pruſſia, and the United Provinces.

The third will compriſe Denmark, Sweden, Ruſſia, Poland, and Turkey.

For the fourth and laſt part will be reſerved France and Great Britain.

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A conſiderable portion of the work is already ſketched; the firſt part is in forwardneſs to print, and will probably make its appearance in 1793.

As the article of Spain is nearly completed, the following heads of the chapters will convey to the reader a notion of the general plan and purport of the whole work.

Chapter 1, comprehends the hiſtory of Spain from the union of Caſtile and Arragon, by the marriage of Ferdinand and Iſabella, to the death of Ferdinand.

Chapter 2, comprehends the reigns of the Auſtrian line of kings, from the acceſſion of the emperor Charles V. to the extinction of that line on the death of Charles II.

Chapter 3, comprehends the continuation of the hiſtory during the reigns of the kings of the houſe of Bourbon.

Chapter 4, contains geographical tables; an account of the population, government, revenue, army, navy; reflections on the probable cauſes of the decline of Spain—political intereſts, particularly in regard to Great Britain.—The hiſtory of Spain will be illuſtrated by four genealogical tables.

In the ſame manner the author will endeavour to treat each particular country.

As the author is extremely anxious to give to his work all the accuracy in his power, and to throw as many new lights as poſſible over the hiſtorical tranſactions, he is particularly deſirous to conſult the diſpatches from the Britiſh embaſſadors and miniſters abroad; and, as he has already drawn much information from that ſource, he would conſider it a moſt particular obligation, if any gentlemen poſſeſſing thoſe documents would permit him to have acceſs to them. He begs leave to add, that his object, in making this requeſt, is not an idle curioſity, or a deſire of retailing trifling anecdotes, but an earneſt wiſh to elucidate the moſt intereſting periods in the hiſtory of each nation.

Fully ſenſible of the difficulty of ſo extenſive and important an undertaking, he ſolicits the literary aid of his friends; and will hold himſelf greatly indebted for communications of authentic liſts of population, finances, armies and navies, of the reſpective nations; for an account of the commerce, or any other authentic intelligence which may render his work more worthy of the public.

Any papers or intelligence, directed for the author, at MR. CADELL'S, Bookſeller, in the Strand, will be thankfully received.

Bemerton, Feb. 28, 1792.

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